Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 4, 2002 TO MARCH 8, 2002

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Rigs Drilling	February 358	1.1%	-16.4%	The number of active rigs drilling in Alberta rose by 1.1% in February. Although the number of rigs drilling was down from last February's record level, it remains well above the 10-year average.
Canadian Help-Wanted Index (1996 = 100)	February			The drop in the Canadian help-wanted index of 0.8% in February leaves the index almost unchanged for the second straight month. The only province to post an increase was Newfoundland and Labrador (1.1%). Saskatchewan (-3.6%) and Alberta (-2.8%) had the largest declines. Year over year, the national index is down 26.6%.
Alberta	138	-2.8%	-21.6%	
Canada	124	-0.8%	-26.6%	
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	January 106.2	0.9%	-1.2%	Manufacturer's prices, as measured by the Industrial Product Price Index, were down 1.2% in January compared with January 2001. This is mostly due to lower petroleum and coal products prices, which remained 26.1% lower than the previous year. If petroleum and coal products were excluded from the index, industrial product prices would have been up 0.6% from January 2001. The Industrial Product Price Index increased 0.9% from December 2001.
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	January 103.2	2.6%	-13.0%	Prices of raw materials were 13.0% lower in January than they were one year previously. This is mainly due to lower prices for mineral fuels (-25.9%), wood products (-13.2%) and non-ferrous metals (-6.0%). If mineral fuels were excluded from the index, raw materials prices would have been down only 2.0% from January 2001. The Raw Materials Price Index increased 2.6% from December 2001.